Modernisation of Telecommunication System

561.SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to modernise country's telecommunication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be achieved?

DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To modernise the telecommunication services in the country, the draft 8th Plan proposals include:-

- Full automatisation of network by March 1994.
- Replacement/Upgradation of life expired and worn-out equipment.
- Provision of additional 3000 Rkms of ducts for underground cables.
- Practically all new equipment proposed for induction during the 8th Plan period to be of digital type.
- Further computerisation of telecommunication services such as directory enquiry, billing, manual trunk service, etc.
- Use of improved computerised network management

(c) Progressively by the end of the 8th five year Plan.

Waiting Lists for Telephone Connections

562. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting lists for telephone connections for residential and commercial purposes, separately in the district of Aurangabad (Maharashtra);

(b) the number of applicants on the waiting lists for the last three years; and

(c) the time by which the waiting lists are likely to be cleared?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Waiting lists are not maintained separately for residential and commercial demands. Total waiting list as on 31.10.1991 in Aurangabad revenue district is 10928.

(b) Total waiting list pending for more than three years in above district is 5734.

(c) As per draft 8th Plan proposals expansion programmes are being drawn with an objective to provide by the end of the 8th Plan.

i) telephones practically on demand in the rural areas; and

ii) to reduce the waiting period to within two years in large systems.

Accordingly, the above waiting lists will be cleared progressively during the 8th Plan period.